REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-3, 7-8 and 12-13 are amended and claims 16-20 are added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Hamilton during the June 3 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over OmniForm User's Manual For Windows 95 and NT (Caere Corporation, 1998) (hereinafter "OmniForm"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicants submit that OmniForm fails to disclose (1) the combination of features recited in claim 1 including, inter alia, database defining means for defining a database based on the table extracted by the table extraction means, and data input form generation means for generating a database-related data input form related with the database by relating the table included in the data input form accepted by the data input form acceptance means with the database defined by the database defining means; (2) the combination of features recited in claim 6 including, inter alia, defining a database based on the extracted table, and generating a database-related data input form related with the database by relating the table included in the accepted data input form with the defined database; and (3) the combination of features recited in claim 11 including, inter alia, defining a database based on the extracted table, and generating a database-related data input form related with the database by relating the table included in the accepted data input form with the defined database.

During the personal interview, Examiner Hamilton maintained that Chapter 7, page 2 of OmniForm discloses the above-identified features of the claims. In particular, Examiner Hamilton stated that if OmniForm is used to convert and edit a paper form which only includes a table and no other text, after the form is scanned-in and converted using OmniForm, the database is defined by the creation of a record, including all the information in the table, each time that form (i.e., table) is filled out and saved, as shown on page 2, Chapter 7 of OmniForm.

In response, Applicants respectfully assert that the act of saving a filled-out form does not 'define' a database as it merely creates a new record in the database. Further, as discussed during the personal interview, even assuming that the act of saving a filled-out form defines a database, nowhere does OmniForm disclose generating a database-related data input form which is related with the database by relating the table included in the accepted data input form with the defined database, as recited in claims 6 and 11, or data input form generation means for generating a database-related data input form related with the database by relating the table included in the data input form accepted by the data input form acceptance means with the database defined by the database defining means.

As discussed during the personal interview, Chapter 6, page 2 of OmniForm, which was identified as disclosing this feature in the Office Action, simply explains in greater detail that the 'converted form' can be filled out and saved to create a record in the database. Thus, Chapter 6, page 2 simply describes in more detail a step disclosed on page 2 of Chapter 7 of OmniForm. Further, Applicants submit that the 'converted form' of OmniForm cannot be considered to be the database-related data input form recited in the claim at least because if the act of saving a filled-out version of the form allegedly results in defining a database, as asserted by the Examiner during the personal interview, the 'converted form' cannot relate the
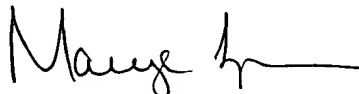
table included in the accepted data input form with the defined database because the database is not defined until that form is saved as a record in the database.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that OmniForm fails to disclose all the features of claims 1, 6 and 11, as well as all the features of claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-20, which depend therefrom. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:MMI/ccs

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